DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 074 116 TM 002 479

AUTHOR	Ellis, E. N.
TITLE	The 1971 Student Census Project. Research Report.
INSTITUTION	Vancouver Board of School Trustees (British Columbia). Dept. of Planning and Evaluation.
REPORT NO	RR-72-24
PUB DATE	Aug 72
NOTE	8p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Data Collection; Educational Research; *Questionnaires; *School Surveys; Statistical Data; *Student Characteristics; *Student Reaction
IDENTIFIERS	British Columbia; *Student Census Project; Vancouver

ABSTRACT

Student replies to 6 of the 14 questions on the Student Census Project questionnaire, administered to 23,060 classes in 2,376 schools in Vancouver in 1971, are presented. These replies relate to where the student and his parents were born; what school they attended on June 1, 1970; hours of TV watched during the week; books read per month; and most important single reason for attending school. An appendix provides a copy of the complete questionnaire; see TM 002 480. (DB)

FILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED 074116

TM 002 479
480

RESEARCH REPORT

THE 1971 STUDENT CENSUS PROJECT

August, 1972

E. N. Ellis

Research Report 72-24

Department of Planning and Evaluation
Board of School Trustees
1595 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B. C.

REPORT ON THE 1971 STUDENT CENSUS PROJECT

The 1971 Census of Canada was the eleventh in a series of major censuses taken decennially since 1871. A wealth of information was collected on the Canadian people, their homes and their farms. Basic data concerning age, sex, marital status, mother tongue, etc., were obtained from all persons in Canada, and housing information was collected for each dwelling. In addition, one-third of the population completed a detailed questionnaire containing questions on demography, education, occupation, income, etc. A farm questionnaire was completed for all agricultural holdings in Canada.

The Student Census Project was designed to involve students in the 1971 Census. They were asked to complete a questionnaire (see Appendix "A") on May 25, and they were expected to assist their parents in understanding the purposes and procedures of the National Census to be taken on June 1. Statistics Canada provided a teaching manual with suggested materials to introduce the Canadian Census to students.

The Student Census Project was experimental in nature and it was directed only to those students included in the sample. The completion of the questionnaire was entirely voluntary. Participation by the selected provinces, metropolitan areas, and school boards included in the sample was 100%; the number of each of these was 9, 20 and 59 respectively. A total of 2,376 schools participated and 23,060 classes completed the questionnaire. All of the schools in Vancouver were included in the sample.

The completed questionnaires were returned to Statistics Canada where the data from the questionnaires were transferred to keypunch cards. These cards were used with a computer program which generated the summaries and analyses.

Late in June 1972, principals of schools participating in the project received a print-out of the tables that summarized the data, and a master summary was sent to the school board office.

The print-out summarizes the responses separately by grades, and tabulates the percentage responses of four groups: the particular school, the school district, the metropolitan areas of the province, and Canada. Principals are encouraged to examine the summary and analyze similarities and differences that characterize the student populations of the grades in their schools.

The writer has examined the summary for Vancouver schools, and the following characteristics of our students are considered to be noteworthy:

Question 4: Where were you born?

The proportion of students born in British Columbia is about the same as that for the province. On the other hand, the proportion of students born elsewhere in Canada is lower than that for the province. British Columbia has a higher proportion of children born in the United Kingdom than does Canada as a whole. Vancouver has a somewhat higher proportion of children born in Germany than does the province or the Dominion. While the proportion of students born in Italy is higher than that for the province, it is considerably below that for Canada as a whole. Both British Columbia and Vancouver

have a higher proportion of children born in the United States than do the other provinces of Canada as a group. It should be noted that the responses provided for this item failed to include any countries in the Orient, and some of the suggested responses, i.e., Poland and the Republic of Ireland, were considerably less appropriate.

Question 5: Were your parents born in Canada?

Vancouver has a higher proportion of students whose parents are born outside of Canada than the provincial or national metropolitan averages.

Question 9: Where did you attend school on June 1, 1970?

A smaller proportion of Vancouver pupils was attending school in other provinces of Canada than was true for the province as a whole. Both Vancouver and British Columbia tend to have a larger percentage than the rest of Canada of pupils who had been attending school in Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Question 10: During the school year, how many hours of television do you usually watch per week?

For all three groups, i.e., Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia, and Canada, children tend to do less televiewing in the higher grades than they do in Grade 6 or 7. In Vancouver, 7% of the pupils in Grade 6 watched less than five hours of television. At the Grade 12 level, the proportion is increased to 26%. On the other hand, there are 37% of the Grade 6 pupils who watch more than twenty hours of television per week, and this is reduced to less than 8% at the Grade 12 level.

A comparison of the televiewing habits suggests that the students of British Columbia do less televiewing than do those in Canada as a whole. Vancouver students have an intermediate position that is more like the average for the Province than that of the Dominion.

Question 11: During the school year, how many books do you usually read per month?

As was the case with televiewing, younger children tend to read more than older students. In Vancouver, approximately 10% of the Grade 6 pupils claimed to read less than a book a month. At the Grade 12 level, the proportion was 17.5%. On the other hand, 18.5% of the Grade 6 pupils were reading seven or more books per month, while the corresponding figure for Grade 12 was 6%.

A comparison with the statistics for British Columbia and Canada reveals that Vancouver pupils are reading to a greater extent than the other two groups, that is, a smaller proportion read fewer than one book per month and a larger percentage are reading five, six, seven or more books per month.

Question 14: What is your most important single reason for attending school? (A) the law requires it, (B) my parents make me, (C) I want to continue my education, (D) I want to improve my job opportunities.

Vancouver students in Grades 8, 10 and 12 listed as their first motivation "to improve my job opportunities". This proportion was lower than that for the province or for all of Canada. The second most popular response was "to continue my education", but here the proportion was less than that for Canada as a whole. It is noteworthy that responses (A) and (B) were less popular, but they tended to be given more frequently by students in British Columbia than by students in the rest of Canada (see Table I). Furthermore, these responses tended to be given more frequently by students in Grade 8 than by students in higher grades.

TABLE I: SUMMARY OF RESPONSES OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 8, 10 AND 12 IN VANCOUVER, IN METROPOLITAN AREAS OF B.C. AND IN CANADA TO ITEM 14: WHAT IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE REASON FOR ATTENDING SCHOOL? (ENTRIES ARE PERCENTAGES.)

	Vancouver			B.C.			Canada		
Responses	Gr.8	Gr.10	Gr.12	Gr.8	Gr.10	Gr.12	Gr.8	Gr.10	Gr.12
A. The law requires it.	7.41	4.61	2.45	7.97	4.75	2.18	6.87	3.26	0.99
B. My parents make me.	6.12	5.12	2.97	6.78	5.67	2.77	4.88	3.89	1.89
C. To continue my education.	34.11	29.77	33.17	31.19	27.62	32.61	34.48	33.52	34.11
D. To improve my job opportunities.	44.13	49.26	45.55	46.24	50.55	46.50	47.24	49.73	49.88
E. Other reasons.	1.67	2.86	3.25	1.71	3.08	3.76	1.45	2.35	3.38

Note: A copy of the computer print-out summarizing the responses is available on request for inspection in the office of the Department of Planning and Evaluation, Vancouver School Board.

APPENDIX "A"

1. SEX

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- Male
- Female

2. MOTHER TONGUE

Language **FIRST** spoken and **STILL UNDERSTOOD**

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Other *(specify)* ——→ _____

3. DATE OF BIRTH

MONTH AND YEAR OF BIRTH

Month

Year

MONTH OF BIRTH

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- Jan. to May
- June to Dec.

YEAR OF BIRTH

DECADE

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- 194-
- 195-
- 196-

ACTUAL YEAR

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

4. Where were you born?

If born **IN** *Canada, mark the province then* **GO TO QUESTION 5.**

- Nfld.
- P.E.I.
- N.S.
- N.B.
- Que.
- Ont.
- Man.
- Sask.
- Alta.
- B.C.
- Yukon
- N.W.T.

If born **OUTSIDE** *Canada, mark the country.*

- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Italy
- Poland
- Republic of Ireland
- United States

Other, write here _____

5. Were your **PARENTS** born **IN** Canada?

- Both
- Neither
- Mother only
- Father only

6. In total, how many brothers and sisters do you have?

Include stepbrothers and sisters and adopted brothers and sisters.

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

7. Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation?

- English only
- French only
- Both English and French
- Neither English nor French

8. Indicate the grade in which you are currently enrolled.

If not enrolled in a grade, indicate the grade in which you are doing **MOST** *of your work.*

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13

9. Where did you attend schoo

If attended school **IN** *Canad*

- Nfld.
- P.E.I.

If attended school **OUTSIDE**

- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Italy

10. During the school year, how

Do not include hours of tele

- 0-4
- 5-9

11. During the school year, how

Do not include assigned read

- None
- 1-2

12. What section(s) of a newspap

FILL ONE OR MORE

- None
- Comic
- Editorial

13. Have you worked part-time f

- No ——→ GO
- Yes, regularly
- Yes, occasionally

If "Yes", when did yo

FILL ONE OR MORE

- Before school
- From school closing t
- Evening
- Week-end

14. What is your most important

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

- The law requires it
- My parents make me

ATE OF BIRTH

YEAR OF BIRTH

DECADE *FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY*	ACTUAL YEAR *FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY*	
194-	0	5
195-	1	6
196-	2	7
	3	8
	4	9

Alta. Yukon
C. N.W.T.

Other, write here

9. Where did you attend school on June 1, 1970?

If attended school **IN** *Canada, mark the province then* **GO TO QUESTION 10.**

Nfld. N.S. Que. Man. Alta. Yukon
P.E.I. N.B. Ont. Sask. B.C. N.W.T.

If attended school **OUTSIDE** *Canada, mark the country.*

United Kingdom Poland
Germany Republic of Ireland
Italy United States

Other, write here

10. During the school year, how many hours of television do you usually watch **PER WEEK?**

Do not include hours of television watched in school.

0-4 10-14 20 or more
5-9 15-19

11. During the school year, how many books do you usually read **PER MONTH?**

Do not include assigned reading, text books, magazines, or comic books.

None 3-4 7 or more
1-2 5-6

12. What section(s) of a newspaper do you **MOST** frequently read?

FILL ONE OR MORE

None Financial Women's
Comic Local News World News
Editorial Sports

Other, write here

13. Have you worked part-time for pay **OUTSIDE** of your home during the present school year?

No ⟶ **GO TO QUESTION 14**
Yes, regularly
Yes, occasionally

If "Yes", when did you work part-time?

FILL ONE OR MORE

Before school
From school closing to supper time
Evening
Week-end

Other, write here

14. What is your most important **SINGLE** reason for attending school?

FILL ONE CIRCLE ONLY

The law requires it I want to continue my education
My parents make me I want to improve my job opportunities

Other, write here

Instructions

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATIST

A. **Please do not put your name or any other personal identification mark anywhere on the questionnaire.** Names are not required because we want to ensure that your answers remain **absolutely confidential.**

B. Complete the information requested on the front cover before answering the questions. When completing your grade level, use letters as well as numerals where applicable (e.g. 6E, 12B).

C. Fill in ONE CIRCLE ONLY for all questions, except for Questions 12 and 13 where you are instructed to "FILL IN ONE OR MORE".

D. **Question 2** – Your "Mother Tongue" is the FIRST language that you learned and STILL understand. If you do not now understand the first language you learned, your "Mother Tongue" will be the next language that you learned and still understand.

E. **Question 3** – Print the month and year of your birth in the first section. Fill in the appropriate circles in the second, third and fourth sections. ONE CIRCLE ONLY should be filled in for each of these sections. One circle will show the month range. One circle will show the decade and the third circle will show the year of birth. For example, if you were born in 1959 you would fill in the circle beside "195-" in the "DECADE" column and the circle beside "9" in the "ACTUAL YEAR" column.

F. **Question 7** – Do not report a language studied at school unless you can conduct a conversation in it. By this we mean being able to carry on a conversation of some length on a variety of topics.

G. **Questions 10 and 11** – Your best estimates are required for the answers.

H. The Student Census Project questionnaire is an official government document. Please take your completed questionnaire home to show your parents the new type of "self-census" questionnaire that will be employed in the 1971 Census of Canada. If necessary, ask your parents for assistance in answering any of the questions.

I. Return the questionnaire to your teacher the next morning so that it will not be lost, mislaid or damaged. If you lose or damage your questionnaire, your teacher will give you another one.

DO YOUR PART
"COUNT YOURSELF IN"
ON THIS IMPORTANT STUDENT CENSUS.

TM 002 480 ED 074117

Dear Student:

On the first of June everyone in Canada will be
cluded in the 1971 Population Census. On that
all Canadians are being asked to give answers to
questions about themselves. When added up by
Dominion Bureau of Statistics, these answers w
how many of us live in cities, towns, villages or
farms, and a lot of other things that are importa
building a better Canada.

So that you will know about this census, we are
asking you to complete a questionnaire similar
design to the 1971 Census questionnaire and wh
contains some of the questions your parents wi
completing for you and your family on June 1.

We are also asking some questions which will he
highlight student interests and activities.

Answers that you give on this Student Census Pr
questionnaire and that your parents give on the
Census questionnaire, are confidential and will b
used only to describe students and Canadians, n
you or your parents.

Two million students are going to help us – ma
count on you to "count yourself in"?

Thank you.

Walter E. Du
Dominion Statisti
Ottawa, Ca
April 1

MINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

1971 Student Census Project

Student:

he first of June everyone in Canada will be in-
ed in the 1971 Population Census. On that day
anadians are being asked to give answers to
tions about themselves. When added up by the
inion Bureau of Statistics, these answers will tell
many of us live in cities, towns, villages or on
s, and a lot of other things that are important to
ding a better Canada.

nat you will know about this census, we are
g you to complete a questionnaire similar in
n to the 1971 Census questionnaire and which
ains some of the questions your parents will be
leting for you and your family on June 1.

re also asking some questions which will help us
ight student interests and activities.

vers that you give on this Student Census Project
ionnaire and that your parents give on the 1971
us questionnaire, are confidential and will be
only to describe students and Canadians, not
r your parents.

million students are going to help us — may we
t on you to "count yourself in"?

k you.

Walter E. Duffett

Walter E. Duffett,
Dominion Statistician,
Ottawa, Canada.
April 1971.

DATE	ROOM NO.	GRADE

(Name of school)

(City, town, village, municipality)

(Province)

GUIDES TO HELP YOU

1. Before beginning, study the "Instructions" inside the front cover.
2. Use a BLACK pencil to fill circles "O" like this "●".
3. If you fill the wrong circle, erase the mark completely and fill the correct one.
4. Where "WRITE-IN" answers are required, please write or print clearly.
5. The "Instructions" should provide the answers to any problems that may arise. If not, ask your teacher for assistance.

Note to students

The Student Census Project is not the official Population Census being conducted on June 1. Information concerning yourself is required on the official questionnaire even though you complete the Student Census Project questionnaire. Answers to all questions relating to you should be provided by the Head of your household when completing the 1971 Census of Canada form.